staff based on local residence criteria, multi-skilling of doctors and para-medics, provision of incentives to serve in rural areas like blended payments, difficulty area allowances, PG allowance, case based payments, improved accommodation arrangements, provision of Ayush doctors and paramedics in PHCs and CHCs as additional doctors in rural areas, block pooling of doctors in underserved areas, engaging with the non-Government sector for underserved areas through contracting in or contracting out of human resources, empowering the community to exercise greater control over health care facilities, provision of untied and flexible funds are a few of the many measures being undertaken to ensure proper health care facilities for the rural poor in the country.

Bi-valent Oral Polio Vaccine

2070. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to introduce Bi-valent Oral Polio Vaccine (BOPV) to deal with the fresh outbreak of type 3 virus of Polio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the special drives launched by Government to wipe out polio from the country have proved ineffective and the number of Polio cases are still rising ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the use of this new polio vaccine will be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes. Based on the recommendations of India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), the advisory body to the Government of India on Polio Eradication, it has been decided to administer Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) in specific areas depending on the availability.

(c) and (d) As per the IEAG, virologic, genetic, operational and technical evidence show that India is on the right path for polio eradication. Although the number of polio cases has increased in 2009 as compared to 2008, the geographic scope of both poliovirus type1 and type3 has reduced further.

Trials in India with bOPV has shown the vaccine to be more efficacious than the traditionally used trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) and almost as good as the currently used monovalent oral polio vaccines mOPV1 and mOPV - which protect against the corresponding poliovirus type.

As per the opinion of the IEAG the use of the bivalent OPV is expected to achieve interruption of transmission of polio type1 while maintaining control of polio type3 and once this is achieved, the strategy will shift to interruption of polio type 3.